



LINDA S. ADAMS
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Board Meeting
September 19, 2007

CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item 11
Attachment 1



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

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April 25, 2007

James E. McRea
Public Services Director
City of Ridgecrest
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

RE: City of Ridgecrest's Biennial Review Status Update

Dear Mr. McRea:

Thank you for meeting with Catherine Cardozo, Tabetha Willmon and me on March 27, 2007, to discuss the City of Ridgecrest's 2003/2004 Biennial Review. At our meeting you, Bob Smith and Darlene McGonagle outlined the steps the City is taking to achieve California's diversion requirements. We also discussed actions the City could take to improve diversion program implementation and goal measurement accuracy.

As we discussed upon review of the City's existing diversion programs, we feel that additional program development is warranted in the following areas:

- Adoption of residential curbside recycling;
- Implementation of a commercial recycling program with on-site pickup services;
- Implementation of a school recycling program; and,
- Adoption of a buy-recycled procurement policy.

We also discussed the City's diversion rate and Board staff's analysis that it may not be representative of the City's level of diversion program implementation. With 32,738 tons being disposed by the City in 2004, it would have had to divert 78,152 tons to achieve the City's estimated 70 percent diversion rate that is based on the original 1990 base year. After two site visits to the City (in the fall of 2006 and our visit this March), staff believes the City's lack of program implementation does not justify such a high diversion rate.



At our March 27 meeting, Board staff recommended the City conduct a new base year study to obtain a more accurate indicator of diversion occurring within the City of Ridgecrest. Additionally, we discussed the City's need to implement additional diversion programs, as outlined above, and the potential issuance of a Compliance Order. Such an Order would assist the City in identifying the tasks and timelines associated with implementing additional programs. This letter therefore serves to not only address our concerns with the City's inaccurate diversion rate and gaps in program implementation, but also to confirm that the 60-day conferring process for consideration of a Compliance Order began during our March 27, 2007, meeting.

Board staff will be available to support the City in its efforts to implement additional programs, such as those discussed at our meeting, and to assist the City with conducting a new base year study. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 324-6373.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Curie S. Canuela', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Curie S. Canuela
Office of Local Assistance, Central Section
California Integrated Waste Management Board